



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TRIBE TO BUILD FIELD OF DREAMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL**

School Board and Tribe Formalize Partnership to  
Build Athletic and Community Facilities

**San Bernardino, Calif. and San Manuel Indian Nation– February 22, 2006** - The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and San Bernardino City Unified School District announced at yesterday's school board meeting that San Manuel will begin the construction of a state of the art athletic facility for San Gorgonio High School. During the meeting the school district board of trustees formalized an agreement allowing the tribe to begin the project in March 2006 with expected completion in mid 2007.

"San Gorgonio High School has been a pillar of our community for 40 years," said Chairman Deron Marquez of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. "We are pleased to be able to give back to the school that made a significant impact in the lives of our tribal citizens, employees and their families."

The project will be completed in two phases, phase I track and field only to allow for 2006 graduation ceremonies, also to commemorate the school's 40th anniversary celebration. The full scope of the gift will include an all-weather track and field, auxiliary buildings that will house locker rooms, snack bars for home and visiting teams, training room for the student athletes, ticket sales, stadium lights and bleachers with press box. The new stadium will enhance the student experience and encourage increased alumni and community support for school athletics.

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“The school District is eager to work in concert with the tribe to enhance the overall quality of education and the educational experience for students, faculty, staff and parents of San Gorgonio High School,” District Superintendent Dr. Arturo Delgado said.

The school district and tribe will partner to assure that the project is managed in strict accordance with the building provisions of the school district and the Division of the State Architect (DSA). The design professionals and contractors working under the management of the Tribe's project development department have an established track record of completing projects for California schools. The team includes WLC Architects, Byrom-Davey Construction, MGM – Dynasty Builders, Berryman & Henigar Civil Engineers, and Kleinfelder Geotechnical Engineers.

“I’m just very grateful for this generous donation. We appreciate all of the support from the San Manuel tribe,” San Gorgonio Principal Sandy Robbins said. “It will definitely add to the quality of our sports program. But, more than that, it will give our students opportunities they wouldn’t otherwise have and give us another area to hold school and community events.”

The school district and tribe enjoy a long standing relationship of cooperative programs, such as the California Indian Cultural Awareness Conference and intramural sports, which contribute to the social and cultural development of youth in our shared communities. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians shares a commitment to quality education like other local governments and has provided financial contributions and sponsorships to UCLA, California State San Bernardino and a host of local schools over the years.

**SITE PLAN ELEVATION AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

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#### **About the San Bernardino City Unified School District and San Gorgonio High School**

The San Bernardino City Unified School District was established in July 1964 when the San Bernardino City School District and the San Bernardino City High School District joined together, uniting two long-standing traditions of educational excellence.

San Bernardino City Schools, one of several small school districts in the San Bernardino area, played an important part in educating students as far back as 1853. Over the years, several of the other local schools and districts were annexed into San Bernardino City Schools, including what are today Warm Springs, Monterey, Fairfax and Arrowhead Elementary Schools.

The area's first public high school, San Bernardino High, opened in 1885. Now, eight high schools serve San Bernardino Unified students, including San Gorgonio High School.

San Gorgonio High educates more than 3,000 San Bernardino and Highland students in grades 9-12. The school recently received a bronze-level School of Achievement award for meeting all of its Academic Performance Index (API) targets.

#### **About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture.

The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as sovereign nation with the right of self- government. Despite challenges and hardships, the San Manuel tribal community has continued to progressively maintain and enhance its unique form of governance - focusing all efforts on providing a better quality of life for its citizens.

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Through economic diversification, both on and off the reservation, the tribe has been forward thinking in its efforts to build infrastructure, maintain civil services and promote social, economic, educational and cultural development. Today, the San Manuel tribal government has created essential governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment and continues to pursue opportunities for future generations.

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